

CUSA Exchange Report

University of Vienna

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University Introduction

University of Vienna (German: Universität Wien) is the oldest university founded in the German-speaking world. Founded for more than 650 years, it consists of many different faculties and programmes, the most renowned one is Humanities. Located in the capital of Austria, UniWien is highly assessable.

The Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics offers different kinds of courses in German and also in English. Many courses are in German and some are in English. (Don't get confused with the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). They are two different universities.)

UniWien: <https://www.univie.ac.at/>

Academic Courses

The Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics offers some courses explicitly for exchange students, but most of them are at elementary level, such as MKTG2010 and MGNT1020. Some of the accounting courses are similar with the CUHK ones, but they are quite unlikely to transfer the credits back (e.g. ACCT4111). However, visiting professors seems to be quite common and they may offer courses which are similar to the major courses in CUHK, so you can still try it.

Many courses are taught in German and in Master level. In the course catalogue, there are many courses in German, so make sure you won't register these courses unless you reached German B1 level. There are many English courses, especially in the Faculty of History and Business and Economics Faculty. You can consider taking these courses instead of accounting ones.

The workload in UniWien is not very demanding compared to CUHK. There are tests and one final examination normally.

Attendance is **COMPULSORY** for many courses. Make sure you won't fail the attendance requirement or you will get an F grade for sure. Some courses only require students to attend the final exam or submit essays, such as History and some elementary business courses.

Visa Requirement

Student Visa is required if you need to study in Europe for more than three months. You need to apply Visa D. You can refer to the link below for more information.

<http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/consulate-general-new-york/practical-advice/visa-and-residence-permit/entry-permit-visa.html>

Flight ticket

There is no direct flight to Vienna from Hong Kong. I took Finnair which costs me about \$10,000 for a return journey. It was quite expensive as I departed during the Chinese New Year holiday. Make sure you can check in two pieces of luggage.

Accommodation

There are **NO** on-campus accommodation. You can apply through 'WiHast' or 'OEAD'. 'Wihast' dormitories are cheaper, while 'OEAD' are in better living conditions. I lived in an OEAD student dormitory in Gasometer. A single-room shared flat costs about 400 euro per month. Always be cautious about the rental payment, I had an experience of being asked to pay an extra amount of rent per month due to some communication problems and bureaucracy.

Weather

The weather in Vienna is very nice in spring and summer. It is around 5-15C in February and March, very cool and not too freezing. In summer it is about 25C in daytime and 10-15C at night. It is very relaxing to have a walk at night.

Travelling

Vienna is very convenient to travel to European countries. You can take buses, planes

or trains from Vienna. For air means, you may also take the RyanAir from Bratislava airport in Slovakia. It is only an hourly train distance from Vienna Central Station.

Expenses:

Dining

It is quite expensive for a proper meal in Vienna (about HKD\$70 for lunch). It is advised to cook if you want to save money. Supermarkets such as Hofer and Pennymarkt offer many low-price food and beverages. It is often cheaper than in Hong Kong, especially dairy products!

Transportation

It is highly recommended to purchase a semester ticket. It costs 150 euro and you can take all means of public transport! Buses, trams, trains within the Vienna Zone 100 are all included in this ticket. Therefore, it is very cost-effective if you buy one.

Travelling Expenses

It depends on where and how frugal you can be. I spent around HKD40000 and travelled to 15 countries. Ways to spend less including living in youth hostels or Airbnb, buying air and train tickets in advance, and couchsurfing.

Phone and Network

It depends on which provider you choose. 3(Drei) costs about HKD150 per month for 1GB data. A new economical provider called Hofer Telekom offers plans which are much cheaper. The SIM cards can be purchased in all Hofer supermarkets.

Final Tips

- Austria is a German-speaking country. Although most people know English, it is recommended to learn some basic German in order to survive (at least in supermarkets).
- The summer semester (Sommersemester) lasts from March till the end of June.
- Compulsory attendance (at least 75% of classes) is strictly enforced for many courses. Please make sure they fit your schedule if you plan to travel during weekends or holidays.
- Vienna is a metropolitan while designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This 'most livable city' is famous for its quality of life. Remember to get time to enjoy the relaxing vibe there. Cafes, parks and operatic venues will surely make you

feel contented.

- I am not sure about the exchange agreement with CUHK now. However, if you plan to study business courses which the credits can be transferred back, another University in Vienna may be a better choice in some people's mind.

Have fun and enjoy the most memorable semester!

